

July 31, 2009

## **NEW CONCEALED WEAPON PERMIT LAWS Take Effect August 1, 2009**

BISMARCK – Beginning August 1, 2009, applicants for a North Dakota Concealed Weapon Permit will have a choice of permits. In an effort to increase the number of states that recognize North Dakota's concealed weapon permits, the new law creates a two-tier system.

The Class 2 permit is available to anyone over the age of 18 who passes an open book test, and is the same as the existing permit. To receive a Class 1 permit, however, the applicant must be over 21, complete a course of classroom instruction, the open book test, and pass a proficiency test.

"Some states refused to recognize our permits because North Dakota did not require a concealed weapon permit holder to complete a shooting proficiency test," said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. "By creating a two-tier system, we are able to accommodate existing permit holders and still offer a choice to people who are interested in reciprocity with other states."

Two states, Arizona and West Virginia, already have agreed to recognize our new Class 1 permits, although neither state will recognize Class 2 or existing permits. Eleven other states that have not previously extended reciprocity, including Minnesota, are still reviewing North Dakota's new laws.

Other changes to the concealed weapons laws and rules that take effect on Saturday include:

- Application fee increases to \$45.00;
- All testing and classroom instruction must be conducted within the state.
- All existing permits automatically convert to a Class 2 permit on August 1, 2009, and keep the same expiration date. Existing permit holders may apply to upgrade to a Class 1 permit upon completion of the necessary testing requirements.

Detailed information about the new rules and application process, and a list of certified test administrators, is available online from the Attorney General's website, at <http://www.ag.nd.gov/BCI/CW/CW.htm>.

There are currently 12,733 North Dakota concealed weapons permit holders.

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